REFERENCE COPY

COMMANDERS DIGEST

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

Vol. 8, No. 15 July 11, 1970

DOD's Domestic Action Program Well Underway

The Defense Department's 1970 Domestic Action Program, designed to provide thousands of the nation's young people with employment, educational opportunities, training and recreation, is underway.

The plan is to double the number of disadvantaged youngsters participating in the program over that of last year (275,000) and make greater use of the resources and facilities offered by the Department of Defense.

The program began in April 1969, when Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird established a Domestic Action Council and charged it with the responsibility for directing and coordinating Domestic Action Programs at military installations throughout the country.

Secretary Laird outlined six general areas in which the Defense Department could do more toward resolving domestic problems: procurement, manpower, transfer of knowledge (re-

(Continued On Page Two)

Photographs taken of Major Wilmer N. Grubb shortly after his capture have been released by North Vietnam and have appeared in several publications: the February 1967 issue of *Vietnam* Magazine, the July 1, 1966 issue of the Japanese *Asaaigraphic* Magazine, the Nov. 26, 1967 issue of the Cuban *Derdo Olivo* Magazine, and the February 1967 issue of the North Korean *Choson* Magazine. Additionally, Hanoi broadcast a statement by then Captain Grubb to South Vietnam on Feb. 3, 1966.

Amid Drama, Well-Wishes

Wives Of Missing Men In SEA Open Offices Here, Set Objectives

Her eyes may have been a little misty and perhaps her voice wavered as she spoke, but there was no doubt she had the strength, courage and determination of a crusader seeking justice.

"My husband, Major Wilmer N. Grubb, USAF, was shot down January 1966, near Vinh in North Vietnam . . . almost immediately there were reports of his capture . . . I have never received a letter from my husband . . ."

These are brief excerpts from a statement read June 30 by Mrs. Wilmer N. Grubb at the grand opening of a headquarters for the National League of Families of American Prisoners Missing in Southeast Asia.

During ceremonies at 1 Constitution Ave., Washington, D.C., she told how North Vietnam had previously identified her husband as a prisoner, photographed him, released photographs of him, and how sources within North Vietnam had confirmed that he was, indeed, a prisoner.

But, she said, his name does not appear on a list released June 26 by an anti-war group.

"I, for one, cannot believe—will not allow myself to believe—that Hanoi would deliberately condemn to oblivion those men whose names have been omitted," she said.

Mrs. Grubb wasn't alone on the podium. Many dignitaries

(Continued On Page Six)

Plan More Participants In 1970

DOD's Domestic Action Program Well Underway

(Continued From Page One)

ferring to the use of defense technology in the civilian economy) assets, community relations and equal rights and opportunity.

The current program was formulated by Secretary Laird's newly-organized Domestic Action Council, a group of top Defense officials whose chairman is Roger T. Kelley, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs.

The Defense Department's Domestic Action Program is tied to the President's Youth Opportunity Program and joins with other governmental agencies, civic groups and private institutions in an effort to overcome some of the serious domestic problems which face the nation today.

Goals Set

In initiating the 1970 summer youth program, the Council established a set of three goals that would serve as guidelines for the planned activities:

Goal One—Establish summer youth employment opportunities within the Defense Department equal to 4.2 jobs for each 100 civilian employes, with 75 per cent of these jobs being offered to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. It was estimated that if the three military departments meet this goal there should be approximately 44,500 young people employed.

Goal Two—This plan would provide disadvantaged young people with the equivalent of 600,000 man-weeks of educational, training, cultural and vocational opportunities during the 1970 activities. Achievement of this goal will depend on the use of existing facilities by civilian communities throughout the country. (If full use is made of this goal by local communities, Defense officials say, almost twice the number of disadvantaged youngsters could avail themselves of these facilities than the 275,000 of last year.)

Goal Three—This goal encourages each military installation—active, National Guard and Reserve—to sponsor and support at least one significant project to improve the quality of community life adjoining that installation.

In support of this effort maximum use is to be made of Defense Department volunteers, both civilian and military, serving on their off-duty time. It is believed this goal should substantially increase the number of active installations over the 182 which participated in the program last year, as well as increase National Guard and Reserve unit involvement.

New Directive

In furtherance of this program a new Domestic Action Program Directive was printed (DOD Directive 5030.37, dated May 21, 1970). This directive includes specific instructions for use by both local communities and military installations concerning the loan of equipment and facilities, transportation, summer employment, use of surplus Department of Agriculture food for on-base community-sponsored projects.

Defense officials said distribution of the new directive will be made not only to Defense facilities but also to other federal agencies such as the Office of Economic Opportunity; Health, Education and Welfare; and Department of Agriculture, for use by community action agencies and federal agency field offices.

The Defense Department hopes local communities will make full use of the facilities which are being made available by the military installations for summer youth programs.

Massachusetts Program

Defense officials believe many more summer youth activity projects can be initiated either on a local or statewide basis. They point to one project being implemented in Massachusetts by Senator Edward W. Brooke (R-Mass.).

This program was launched at Fort Devens, Mass., June 29, with Westover AFB, Otis AFB, Hanscom Field and the Boston Navy Yard scheduled to follow.

The Massachusetts program will involve more than 22,000 disadvantaged youngsters from 12 cities in Massachusetts and New Hampshire who will make use of facilities at the five major military facilities in the state.

The activities on each base will center around recreation, supplementary education and job training. Medical examinations are to be given prior to program participation.

Senator Lauds DOD

Concerning the nature of the Massachusetts program Senator Brooke said, "The Department of Defense has been seeking ways to help communities in their continual struggle against the debilitating impact of poverty.

"They have generously offered the use of those facilities not actively involved in the pursuit of their basic military missions. I am hopeful that this modest effort will kindle the imagination of more community leaders so that the other programs with greater impact can be generated that will make use of resources both on and off military bases."

In October 1969, Senator Brooke, accompanied by Mr. Kelley, toured military installations in Massachusetts to determine whether a pilot Domestic Action Program could be initiated on a statewide basis.

Because of the interest generated at military installations visited, Senator Brooke assigned personnel to assist in the development of a unified, state-wide Domestic Action Program on a pilot for the summer of 1970.

Consequently, the Massachusetts/Defense Department Domestic Action Program for 1970 will represent the first statewide program in existence. It is believed this program's success or failure may determine whether similar programs will be initiated elsewhere in the country.

General Wheeler

Admiral Moorer

Admiral Zumwalt

General Wheeler Retires

Admiral Moorer New Chairman Of JCS; Admiral Zumwalt, CNO

Three of the nation's top military men reached important and memorable milestones in their lives July 1 when colorful ceremonies at the United States Naval Academy were concluded.

Admiral Thomas Hinman Moorer, 58, was sworn in as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, succeeding General Earle G. Wheeler, 62. Admiral Elmo R. Zumwalt, 49, took over as Chief of Naval Operations. General Wheeler's retirement ceremony took place at Andrews AFB, Md., July 2.

"At this impressive ceremony," said Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird, "we honor two outstanding Naval officers. From them the nation has received much in the past. To them it now entrusts an overwhelming responsibility for assuring its security in the years ahead.

"Usually this ceremony marks the end of a distinguished career of military service for one of its participants. Today's ceremony is an exception, for Admiral Moorer, whose flag is being hauled down here today, is about to assume broader responsibility . . ."

The Secretary then added:

Unique Career

"For the past three years, Admiral Moorer has discharged his responsibilities as Chief of Naval Operations with superlative skill. Of the many milestones in his exceptionally distinguished career, I mention only one: he is the only officer in our nation's history who commanded both the Atlantic and the Pacific fleets.

"We welcome, as the 19th Chief of Naval Operations, Admiral Elmo Zumwalt, who brings to his demanding task the attributes of leadership, intellectual capacity, dedication, and determination.

"In the tour of duty which he has just concluded, Admiral Zumwalt has been responsible for the naval aspects of the Vietnamization program. He leaves Vietnam with that work largely accomplished. Eighty per cent of all American-built brown water combat vessels operating in Vietnam have been turned over to the Navy of the Republic of Vietnam, and the remainder will be transferred by the end of this year. With his leadership and guidance, the Republic of Vietnam has built a highly capable naval force of 37,000 men.

Need Support

"To carry out their new responsibilities, these two able men must be supported loyally, not only by those whom they lead, but also by a public that gratefully recognizes the contribution of the armed forces to our nation's security and freedom.

"As the nation implements a new national strategy of partnership with nations that share our aspirations for a peaceful world, naval power will be of continuing importance in the attainment of our goal. Keeping that power effective in a swiftly changing world will be one of the major concerns of the two resourceful admirals who have the lead parts in today's ceremony.

Inspired Leadership

"The setting for this ceremony is rich in history. We stand on the training ground of distinguished naval leaders of the past—and of the present, for both Admirals Moorer and Zumwalt received their schooling here—and of the future. On

(Continued On Page Eight)

Zero Draft Prospects, Problems Reviewed By Secretary Kelley

A year ago President Nixon established the Youth Advisory Council to provide recommendations concerning youth involved in the nation's draft system. Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs Roger T. Kelley spoke to the Council July 1 at a meeting in Washington. His remarks are given here:

When Curtis Tarr became Directorate of Selective Service, the Secretary of Defense observed that Dr. Tarr's task was to work himself out of a job. This is one way of putting the President's objective of reducing draft calls to zero and relying solely on volunteers for the Armed Forces.

Significant progress toward this objective has been made in the course of the past 18 months since President Richard Nixon took the oath of office as President of the United States. Draft calls have been reduced substantially. Today Secretary Laird announced an August draft call of 10,000 men which follows calls of 15,000 each in May, June and July. Year-to-date draft calls are slightly more than one-half the calls of a year ago.

Secretary Kelley

Yet, the need for some reliance on the draft remains if the Armed Forces are to be maintained at a strength required to assure the safety of our people and the protection of their vital interests beyond our borders. I believe that it will be necessary to ask for an extension of the induction authority when it expires next year.

How long it will be until draft calls are reduced to zero I cannot foretell. But, as long as the draft is used as a means of securing military manpower, the Selective Service System must be made to work with as much equity and efficiency as is humanly possible.

This is why you are here. This is why the Youth Advisory Council was created one year ago by President Nixon. From your reliberations the President expects recommendations which will help eliminate elements of injustice and needless hardship from the Selective Service System, end elements of mystery and caprice sometimes found in it, and increase the over-all efficiency of the program.

Impact On Young

The draft is a subject on which the young particularly deserve to be heard because it impacts so directly on young lives.

At the risk of telling you things you already know, let me summarize what has so far been done to record the Selective Service System.

A random system of selection has replaced the system of selecting the oldest first.

The period of an individual's exposure to the draft has been cut from seven years to one year.

Nineteen-year-olds have been made the prime selection group.

The granting of occupational and paternity deferments has been discontinued.

Views Are Sought

In addition, the President has recommended a phase-out of college deferments and the institution of a national call by lottery number. These are recommendations on which your views are earnestly sought in the course of your current conference here.

Before we can reduce draft calls to zero and expect them to remain there, a number of actions must be taken. Military pay, especially for the draftee and enlistee, must be increased so that it bears a reasonable relationship to civilian pay. Housing must be improved so that military families can live decently within their means. The opportunities and challenges of Service life must be effectively explained through expanded recruiting efforts. And management of the human resource must be ever improved so that the military profession provides a full measure of challenge and a sense of accomplishment for all Americans.

Skill Needed

One of the most serious problems to be solved is that of obtaining the proper distribution of skills among those who would serve in an all-volunteer military force. The objective is not simply to find 2.5 million (or whatever the number may be). There may be difficulty in securing men of certain highly developed skills which are in demand in the civilian economy as well as in securing an adequate number of combat infantrymen. It would not be easy, for example, to induce enough doctors to enlist in an all-volunteer force. Low current retention rates for such specialized personnel as pilots, aircraft mechanics, and crews for nuclear submarines, suggest that positions of these kinds would not be easy to fill if draft calls went down to zero.

Further, we find that only five per cent of those who volunteer for three years of service in the Army choose a ground combat assignment. Finding enough volunteers for this vital function certainly will present serious problems.

The attacks on ROTC on many campuses also constitute an obstacle to the attainment of an all-volunteer force. Although there is no shortage of officers in present circumstances, maintenance of this source of supply of new officers on a large number of campuses across the nation would be essential to abandonment of the draft.

Regulars Need Support

Finally, provision must be made for adequate reserve forces. We could not gamble on a regular force of any size unless it is supported by a strong reserve component. For many, the draft at present is a powerful incentive to enlist in the reserves. This incentive cannot be removed until there is good reason to believe that the required reserve forces can be maintained without it.

But there is another ingredient essential to the realization

of an all-volunteer force. Without it all other actions would fall short in meeting the mark. Many years ago at Valley Forge, General George Washington expressed it this way:

> *"Impress on the mind of every man, from the first to the lowest, the importance of the cause and what it is we are contending for."*

In my opinion, our nation and its young people need to learn the importance of the American cause and what it is we are contending for. They must take the time to understand the "big picture"—why we must be prepared to help other nations; the extent of our vital interests and obligations; the investment in manpower, equipment, and other resources needed to meet them—and last but not least, the consequences of abandoning them. In short, we Americans must learn the whole truth about the "causes" in which we are involved outside of our own Continental limits.

Baron Von Steuben, who helped to make the American Armed Forces of the American Revolutionary War an effective fighting force, once wrote to a friend in Germany about the difference between the European and the American soldier. "You tell the European soldier to do something, and he does it," Von Steuben wrote. "With the American you must first explain why it should be done, and then he will do it."

The American way is to reason why—not just to do and die. This is a part of the American heritage. And the "reasons why" as they pertain to our role in the world today are not understood and therefore are not acceptable to many Americans. This is a deficiency that must be overcome. If we are to achieve an all-volunteer force, volunteers must understand the policy which they may be called upon to defend, and they must be convinced that the policy is both just and wise. Some of our young, as well as some who are not so young, believe that their country is bellicose and imperialistic.

In fact, peace is the guiding star of our nation's policy. President Nixon has been striving to bring an end to the fighting where it now goes on, notably in Vietnam and the Middle East. He is seeking agreement on the limitation of strategic weapons, and negotiations with the Soviet Union on this subject are now in progress in Vienna. Obviously, in these instances, as well as in combustible crises that exist in other trouble spots around the globe, the United States can achieve the results it seeks only with the cooperation of other nations. The fact that we are trying should not be overlooked.

Neither should we overlook the fact that under the Nixon Doctrine we look to the nation which has been directly threatened by aggression to assume the primary responsibility of providing the manpower for its own defense. This is the most important aspect of Vietnamization—turning over the primary manpower responsibility of the war in Southeast Asia to the Republic of South Vietnam. This has made it possible for the President to reduce American troop strength in Southeast Asia by 115,000 with a further reduction of 150,000 to occur by the spring of 1971. These are substantial moves toward reducing the size of our military organization, while containing and smothering the incendiary forces of aggression which threaten our national security.

But granting the wisdom of these initiatives by President Nixon, and assuming their total success, we will still be left with the requirement of protecting our interests against potential conflict, turmoil, and the use of force in many parts of the world. Isolationism is no more an acceptable policy for our country today than it proved to be in the 1930s. The United States cannot be a hermit in the 1970s.

One of the obstacles to understanding at the present time is the fact that foreign policy is in process of change. I am not at all sure that many critics have caught up with the changes that are being put into effect. Often their criticism seems to be directed to the policies of the past.

In his report to the Congress entitled *U. S. Foreign Policy for the 1970s*, President Nixon set as his goal "a more balanced and realistic American role in the world . . ." Under this policy, the United States will be neither the world's policeman nor the world's hermit.

The change that is taking place is manifested in many ways —notably in the vigorous efforts to substitute negotiation for confrontation, to achieve a more realistic sharing of the burden of defense against aggression, to Vietnamize the conflict in Southeast Asia, and to reduce the size of the armed forces for our own country.

There also is a misunderstanding of the military forces of our nation which needs to be corrected. The function of military personnel is too often thought of exclusively in terms of combat. But the military is also one of the nation's leading educational institutions, spending $2.6 billion annually to teach academic and vocational subjects that equip men with knowledge and skills needed in the civilian job market. For many hundreds of thousands of young men who have been slighted by the institutions of civilian society, military service has provided a second chance of opportunity for self-development, for making the most of their talents, and for upward movement in society.

Every military installation in the United States, as well as many overseas, has a program that reaches out to the disadvantaged of our society—that helps to heal the scars inflicted by discrimination, inadequate schooling, the environment of the slums, and plain neglect. These programs are directed particularly toward the young to salvage them before they are submerged in frustration and hopelessness.

These are among the tasks of the military that ought to be more widely known.

I have talked to you chiefly about problems and less about solutions this evening. All of these problems are receiving earnest consideration in the Department of Defense. Proposals to overcome some of them have been formulated. But, for many of them, a lot of hard thinking and study and experimenting remains to be done. On all of them, the Defense Department is open to suggestion. I hope that you in this audience, whether individually or collectively, will contribute to resolving them.

John F. Kennedy frequently used a Chinese proverb in his utterances, "A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

Toward our goal of reducing draft calls to zero, we have made more than a single step. But there are many steps ahead before this journey is completed. Your advice on where to place our feet next—and even an occasional push—will be welcome. It can speed the journey for all of us.

Mrs. Sybil Stockdale, Chairman of the Board of the League of Families, listens to Brigadier General Daniel James Jr., (right) Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. Also interested is Air Force Brigadier General Paul C. Watson, Director for Personnel (J-1), Joint Chiefs of Staff, and representative of the Chairman of the JCS on prisoner of war policy matters.

Wives Of Missing Men In SEA Open Offices Here, Set Objectives

(Continued From Page One)

attended the opening of the new headquarters and many of them spoke to the assembled guests.

Also attending were ranking members of the Administration, leaders of both political parties in Congress, guests from a number of foreign countries, top military officials and members of POW families.

Here again, however, it was—the wives, mothers and children of prisoners held captive in Southeast Asia—who held the limelight. They had come a long way since 1966 when they first began to fight to free their loved ones.

As Mrs. Sybil Stockdale, Chairman of the Board of the League of Families, put it: "Today we embark on a new, more concerted effort . . . As each day passes, we feel that time is running out for our men . . ."

True, the ladies now have an incorporated organization—national in scope—and are ready to throw their collective weight against the inhumane treatment, injustices and misery suffered by their men held captive.

It could be said Mrs. Stockdale fired the first shot for the new organization's campaign to free the prisoners: "We call upon the Government of North Vietnam," she said, "to live up to its announced policy. If it does not, we will make certain that the world community is reminded of the fact month after month after month."

The "policy" Mrs. Stockdale referred to was announced by the Government of North Vietnam late last year when it indicated that mail—inadequate and sometimes non-existant—would be substantially improved.

Explaining how the new national headquarters will operate, Mrs. Stockdale said: "Through this new national headquarters we will, for the first time, be able to carefully coordinate all information on the prisoner issue, and to make that information available to the press."

The new Washington headquarters will be manned by three wives:

Mrs. Iris R. Powers, Lutz, Fla., mother of a "missing" Army warrant officer. She is the new National Coordinator of the League; the Assistant Coordinator is Mrs. Joan M. Vinson, Alexandria, Va., wife of a missing Air Force officer, and the League's office manager will be Mrs. Mary Jane McManus, Brightwaters, N.Y., wife of a captured Air Force officer.

Mr. Charles W. Havens III, a former Defense Department official who was assigned responsibilities for POW problems within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs, will serve as General Counsel for the League. Secretary Treasurer of the new organization is Mr. Bernard F. Talley, Baltimore, Md., father of an imprisoned Air Force officer.

Primary objectives of the League are to:

1—Secure humane treatment for POWs as spelled out in the Geneva Conventions and recognized by general humanitarian standards.

2—Stimulate continued world concern about the fate of the men and the plight of their families.

3—Improve dissemination of information concerning the POW problem, not only to the press and to families of the captured and missing men, but to agencies of government.

That the new organization has the backing of everyone in the U.S. Government is evident from the well-wishes it received from top government officials. Excerpts from President Nixon's message read:

". . . As you know, our government has repeatedly urged that the enemy consider the prisoner problem as a humanitarian issue separate from our differences on the war. There has been no response from our offer. It is as difficult to comprehend the enemy's total disregard for human dignity as it is heartening to praise the sincere desire for your

The three ladies who will staff the new national headquarters of the League of Families at 1 Constitution Ave., NE, Washington, D.C., are (left to right) Mrs. Mary Jane McManus, Office Manager; Mrs. Joan M. Vinson, Assistant Coordinator; and Mrs. Iris R. Powers, National Coordinator.

organization to shorten the anguish and end the heartache of those who await the return of their loved ones . . ."

Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird sent his best wishes for the new organization. He was represented at the ceremonies by Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs and Chairman of DOD's Prisoner of War Policy Committee G. Warren Nutter. Following are excerpts from Secretary Laird's message:

"I regret that I cannot be with you today at the opening of the Office of the National League of Families of American Prisoners and Missing in Southeast Asia, but I would like to take this means of extending my greetings and best wishes. I shall continue to hope with you that all our men will soon return and that the need for such an office will serve the important and necessary function of helping to focus public attention on the treatment of American prisoners . . ."

Many members of the Congress attended the opening ceremonies including: Senators James C. Boggs (R-Del.); Robert J. Dole (R-Kan.); George L. Murphy (R-Calif.); Claiborne Pell (D-R.I.); Strom Thurmond (R-S.C.); and B. Everett Jordan (D-N.C.); Representatives Hamilton Fish Jr., (R-N.Y.), and Bob Wilson (R-Calif.).

Senator Thurmond said he was delighted to attend the ceremony and added:

". . . In my judgment, anything we can do to bring world opinion down—and bring it down hard and strong upon these communist leaders—should be done . . ."

Other guests included Secondary Secretary and Political Officer Hoc of the South Vietnamese Embassy, and Mrs. Claire Chennault, wife of the late Major General Claire Chennault, who organized and made famous the "Flying Tigers" of World War II.

Among military officials present at ceremonies opening the new headquarters were:

Army—Major General Franklin M. Davis, Director of Military Personnel Policies, and Brigadier General Bertram K. Gorwitz, Deputy Chief of Information (CINFO).

Navy—Vice Admiral Thomas F. Connolly, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Air, and Rear Admiral Lawrence R. Geis, Chief of Information (CHINFO).

Marine Corps—Brigadier General Herbert L. Beckington, Assistant Deputy Director of Personnel.

Air Force—Lieutenant General John W. Carpenter III, Assistant Vice Chief of Staff; Lieutenant General Russell E. Dougherty, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans and Operations; Brigadier General James R. Allen, Deputy Director for Plans and Policy; and Brigadier General Thomas P. Coleman, Deputy Director of the Office of Information (SAFOI).

COMMANDERS DIGEST

THIS PUBLICATION CONTAINS OFFICIAL INFORMATION, NEWS AND POLICY, DIRECT FROM WASHINGTON AUTHORIZED SOURCES.

Published weekly by American Forces Press Service, 1117 N. 19th St., Arlington, Va. 22209, a unified activity of the Office of Information for the Armed Forces, OASD (M&RA). Reproduction of content is authorized. Suggested dateline for materials used is WASHINGTON (AFPS).

Mrs. Iris R. Powers, National Coordinator of the League of Families, greets Senator George L. Murphy at the opening ceremonies of the new organization. Mrs. Claire Chennault (center) joins the conversation.

Statement By President Nixon

President Nixon made the following statement June 24 upon signing H.R. 4204, the bill to include prisoners of war of the Vietnam Conflict in the War Claims Act of 1948:

In signing this measure which affects our servicemen who are prisoners of war in Southeast Asia, I wish to re-emphasize the determination of this government to do all in its power to secure their earliest possible release from captivity.

For the families of these men, no other effort on our part can or should be an acceptable substitute for this goal. Recognizing this fact, there is, of course, no monetary payment that I, as President, or this government might authorize which would compensate adequately for the sufferings and hardships endured by these men and their families. It can only be my fervent hope that the payments provided in this Act will in a small way serve as a symbolic gesture on the part of the U.S. Government expressing its recognition and appreciation for the sacrifices that these men have made and continue to make in the service of their country.

General Wheeler Retires

Admiral Moorer New Chairman Of JCS; Admiral Zumwalt, CNO

(Continued From Page Three)

all sides are reminders of the inspired military leadership which has enabled our nation to surmount grave crises of the past. Below that dome before us is the sarcophagus of John Paul Jones. A few hundred yards beyond it is another dome—that of Maryland's historic State House—beneath which George Washington received the thanks of the Congress for his leadership in the War of Independence and performed the last act of his career as a military officer.

"At a time when the outcome of the struggle for independence was far from assured, John Paul Jones wrote with optimism about the future of this, his adopted country, 'The stars of freedom are but rising here.'

"Admiral Moorer and Admiral Zumwalt, I charge you to do your part to see that those stars continue to ride high in the heavens and that their light remains a radiant beacon for freedom-loving men everywhere."

At General Wheeler's special retirement review Secretary Laird said:

After more than 38 years of active military service as a commissioned officer, General Wheeler is retiring today. "Bus" Wheeler's service to his country actually extends back to 1924 when he began four years Service as a member of the District of Columbia National Guard. Then came four years as a cadet at the United States Military Academy before General Wheeler entered upon active duty as an infantry lieutenant.

His outstanding capacity for leadership was clear from the beginning, and particularly during his service in China before World War II and in Europe after the war and during World War II. For much of his distinguished career, but particularly during the past 10 years, General Wheeler has been at the heart of our national security and Military Establishment. In addition to other key assignments, he was Director of the Joint Staff. He served almost two years as Chief of Staff of the United States Army. He is now completing an unprecedented six years as Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Wherever "Bus" Wheeler served, he has brought honor to his profession. He has worked ceaselessly to enhance the status of military service. He leaves, indeed, a very rich legacy to all who wear the uniform of our country.

I have known General Wheeler for many years in my capacity as a legislator. I first knew General Wheeler as a leader of our Military Establishment, and all of us in the United States Congress on both sides of the aisle had respect and admiration for this man that talked straight, gave honest answers and leveled with us on every issue. There was no man in the military service coming before our Committee during these years that we had greater respect and admiration—for his straightforwardness, for his honesty, his integrity, and his dedication to his country.

During these past 18 months he has been one of my closest associates as Secretary of Defense, my most trusted advisor in affairs of the national security and military problems facing the United States, a warm friend, a true friend.

Most of our time together has been spent addressing the complex problems of the highest importance, problems affecting the future security and the challenges to the security of the United States as we enter this decade of the '70s. In these discussions I have always been confident that the Chairman's judgment was based on the soundest military professionalism, for General Wheeler's wise counsel went much farther than that. It included a wide appreciation for the many non-military considerations which must be involved and decisions made at the highest level of our Government and a deep awareness of the human factors that are inherent in such a decision-making process. So what I got from "Bus" Wheeler was not only the professional military advice and assistance which a Secretary of Defense could reasonably expect from our nation's top military man, but in addition he gave the wisdom of a thoughtful man of diversified interests who viewed the future security of his country with indeed a very wide-angle lens. I know that he made my job immeasurably easier. We shall truly miss him in the Department of Defense and throughout the Military Establishment of this nation.

So today, as General Wheeler leaves active duty, I salute him as a great soldier and a great statesman. He has forever his country's respect, its confidence, and its gratitude.

Early this morning I received a telegram for General Wheeler from President Nixon which I would like to read, and I quote from the President's telegram to General Wheeler of this morning:

"As your friends and colleagues gather to wish you the satisfaction in your retirement years that has been so well earned in your long service to the nation, I deeply regret that I cannot be with you. I wholeheartedly join in the spirit of this tribute. Your performance as my senior military advisor over the past 18 months has earned you my highest respect and greatest confidence. Your record is an inspiration, not only for those in military service, but for all of your fellow citizens, and it is on their behalf that I thank you for the wisdom, the courage, and the distinction you have brought to your duties. I hope that I can continue to draw on your experienced advice, even as the country will draw on your example, for many years to come. My best wishes to you always. Richard Nixon."

To the President's message, on behalf of the Department of Defense, and our nation, I would like to add, thank you, General Wheeler, for a lifetime of jobs well done. To General Wheeler and his lovely wife, Betty, we wish long and many years of great happiness. Thank you, General Wheeler.

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402.
Price 5 cents (single copy). Subscription Price: $2.50 per year; $3.25 additional for foreign mailing.
☆ U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1970 434-867/T-2